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**Fitzpatrick Votes to Protect Americans
From Class Action Lawsuit Abuses**

(WASHINGTON) Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Member of the House Small Business Committee, today voted for legislation to end class action lawsuit abuses that have harmed citizens in our legal system, inflated prices, and chased many American jobs offshore.

The Class Action Fairness Act, which the House passed 279 to 149, addresses the most serious abuses by allowing interstate class actions to be heard in federal courts. Currently, many nationwide class actions are filed in state "magnet" courts.

"I am encouraged by the legislation approved last week by the Senate and today by the House. This legislation creates a "Consumer Class Action Bill of Rights" and will help protect consumers from some of the most egregious abuses in class action practice. The legislation contains provisions specifically designed to ensure class members are the primary beneficiaries of the class actions process," said Fitzpatrick.

"Class action abuses harm plaintiffs and defendants in our legal system and inflate the cost of tort liability insurance for our companies. These companies in turn pass the cost increases to consumers. The legislation we approved today with bipartisan support will bring fairness to the system by ensuring plaintiffs receive fair compensation while protecting our employers from lawsuit abuse. It also helps curb junk law suits and limit attorneys trying to shop for a favorable forum. It is a good start," Fitzpatrick continued.

"My goal is to help our small businesses create and keep jobs in America. Lawsuit abuse is one of the reasons U.S. companies feel pushed to move their operations overseas," said Fitzpatrick. The Class Action Fairness Act is endorsed by many U.S. business organizations, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, the National Restaurant Association, and the Electronic Industries Alliance.

"Class action abuses increase the cost of doing business in our country. This legislation will lower these costs and help our small businesses compete in the global economy," concluded Fitzpatrick.

Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick is serving his first term as Representative of the 8th District of Pennsylvania, which includes Bucks County and portions of Montgomery County and Philadelphia.

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